



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League

May/June 2010
www.breckenridgeikes.org

Coming Events

June

- 8** Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 22** Social/Education Meeting 7:30pm
Ron Windingstad, Minnesota's
Audubon at Home Coordinator

July

- 13** Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 20** Social.Education Meeting 7:30 pm

The Annual 10,000 Reasons Why photography contest is now open!

The Minnesota Environmental Fund is looking for striking digital images of nature, highlighting the diversity of life and environments in Minnesota. Images may show animal behavior, portraits of wildlife in natural habitat, plant life, natural landscapes, weather or people interacting with nature.

When: The deadline for submitting entries is 11:59pm Central Time June 21, 2010.

Who: The competition is open to ALL photographers and will be judged in 2 categories:

- . Adult - Amateur or professional, at least 18 years of age.
- . Youth - Young photographers ages 13-17.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded in August to up to three winning images for the Adult and the Youth divisions. Examples of prizes last year include gift certificates to Gunflint Lodge, Midwest Mountaineering, Patagonia, Chipotle and more!

For more information go to: <http://www.mnenvirofund.org>.

Welcome to our new members in 2010:

John Moriarty

New Student Members----

William Risse

Ellen Squires

We have 120 members

*Volunteers
for
refreshments
needed.
Please call
Melissa
Sonnenberg
if you can
help.
763-549-8873*

**Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Board minutes
May 11, 2010**

Attendance

Steve, John, Marlys, Jim, John, John, Dick, Melissa, Wes, Barb, Bill.

Mail wildlife Rehabilitation Center Information.

Pancake Breakfast profit ~\$1,100.

Scholarships - meeting Saturday 5-15, may invite recipients to next meeting. Need another member. 5 this year, target is 4

Calendar May - Heidi Wolfe MN DNR
June River Rat

Issues

Forestry excluded from climate change
Habitat Dedicated Funding definitions from last session repealed.
Great River Greening (Filmore) Dinner MN Ikes Display

Chapter House & Grounds

Tentative date: Thursday night June 3, 7pm Chapter House and Grounds Committee priorities meeting

Waste / Wood Shed

- 1) Estimate for waste/wood shed material is from '06, Dick will update.
 - 2) Location?
 - 3) Pad big enough for bike rack?
 - 4) Jim would like to set a date to have city official come out and review plan & location next week.
 - 5) Dick would like an inventory of lumber behind the chapter house.
- Scouts may be interested in helping. Dick suggested staining.

Refinishing the floor?

- 1) Jim will call Charley, get a bid for approval, and set up for July after the 10th.

Webpage

Newsletters working & looking good!

Barb now has Breckenridge newspaper articles on disk.

Finances & Treasurer's Report Jim relayed balances. Bruce will pick up the bills from Jim tomorrow. National needs a report form for the 990 - John will get it from Jim.
Question regarding end of year summary - Bruce is aware of it.

Membership

Now at 112. National has us at 117 Convention in Philadelphia Mailing ~110 to 120 newsletters, Melissa & Barb will review the list. Barb needs Gradon West's (Spicer New London) e-mail address. Discussion of expanding the electronic version mailing list. Bill will set up a Breckenridge Chapter Ikes Facebook group. Generally agreed to send newsletter reminder notices to non members. Motion Next Timberlines front page notice that newsletter will not go by mail unless requested. email addresses will be needed for reminders of posting on website. Purpose is to save \$. Second Jim Arnold
Motion withdrawn.

Newsletter

Good edition - Earthfest & Pancake Breakfast articles with photos! Thanks to authors & photographers!

Rentals

Rentals have been dropping over the last couple of years. We have a lot of openings in June.

Meeting adjourned



The Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter now has 120 Members!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

But our goal is 200 members!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Do you know someone that wants to become a member???

*If so, forward this email to your friend and they can join
the chapter at Half Price for a Half Year Membership!!!!!!!!!!*

Are you worried about the environmental affects of the Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico???



IWLA's Member's Pledge

"To strive for the purity of water,
the clarity of air,
and the wise stewardship
of the land and its resources;
to know the beauty
and understanding of nature
and the value of wildlife,
woodlands and open space;
to the preservation of this heritage
and to man's sharing in it."

*"I pledge myself as a member of the
Izaak Walton League of America."*

Membership Application:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E Mail: _____

Student: \$31.00 (Full Year)

Family \$75.50 (Full Year) Individual:
\$55.00 (Full Year)

Dues include membership in the National
Izaak Walton League.

* The 6-month July-Dec. family
membership is \$37.00 (Half Year).

* The 6-month July-Dec. individual
membership is \$27.00 (Half year).

* The 6-month July-Dec. student
membership is \$15.00 (Half Year).

Dues are subject to change.

Please make check payable to:

**IWLA, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter
Mail to:**

**Lorraine Spears
11201 Kentucky Avenue N
Champlin, MN 55316
Phone: 763-424-0552**

EPA Conclusions on Sulfide Mining in Northern Minnesota

Recently the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent a letter indicating its conclusions and concerns regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for proposed copper sulfide open pit mines near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and within Superior National Forest of Northern Minnesota.

The letter was sent to the following responsible people/agencies in addition to several others:

- 1) Jon Christensen / US Army Corps of Engineers
- 2) Jim Sanders / USFS Superior National Forest
- 3) Mark Holsten / Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- 4) Paul Egger / Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA)

Here are some **Direct Quotes** from the letter:

“Based on our review of the DEIS, EPA has rated the DEIS as Environmentally Unsatisfactory – Inadequate, or EU-3”

“EPA has assigned the EU rating because our review of the DEIS determined that the proposed action will result in environmentally unsatisfactory water quality impacts”

“Consequently, we believe that the DEIS likely underestimates water quality impacts and that the project is likely to have additional unmitigated long-term discharges.”

“EPA determined that the project will result in unacceptable and long term water quality impacts, which include exceeding water quality standards, releasing unmitigated wastewater discharges to water bodies (during operation and in post closure period), and increasing mercury loadings into the Lake Superior watershed.”

“EPA finds this project may have substantial and unacceptable adverse impacts on aquatic resources of national importance.”

“Long-term post-closure treatment will be necessary to protect water quality; therefore, EPA believes financial assurance information should have been included in the DEIS.”

“EPA believes that because of deficiencies in the DEIS, additional information, alternatives, and mitigation measures should be evaluated and made available for public comment in a revised or supplemental DEIS.”

June 22 Social/Ed Meeting: 7:30 PM

Ron Windingstad, Minnesota's Audubon at Home Coordinator will be speaking about what we can do for birds, whether it is in our backyard, in our neighborhood, at our schools, or on corporate campuses. Chimney Swifts will be a major portion of the presentation and what is being done here in the Metro, and throughout Minnesota, in attempts to halt the rapid decline in this poorly understood species. Building artificial towers for the Swifts as well as the importance of native plants for native insects that are fed upon by so many of our species will also be discussed.

2010-11 Scholarship Recipients

By Jim Arnold

The Breckenridge Chapter Scholarship Committee recently named five outstanding young people as our scholarship recipients for the 2010-11 school year. The Chapter has now awarded 48 five hundred dollar scholarships in the twelve years of the program. The committee again selected five students, rather than the usual four, because of the quality of the applicants. Awarding an extra scholarship was possible financially because of fundraisers like the silent auction, extra donations from Chapter members and a profitable 2010 for the scholarship endowment fund. The five students:

Ruth Burke, is an Osseo High School graduate currently attending the University of Minnesota. To her major in Applied Plant Science (agroecology emphasis) she has added a minor in Sustainable Agriculture. After earning her undergraduate degree from the U of M, Ruth plans to obtain a graduate degree through the Peace Corps Masters International Program where she will focus on either the Applied Agriculture or Agricultural Education programs. Ruth will be busy with two internships this summer: 1) Working on an organic OSA farm in Delano, and 2) writing a weekly blog for the magazine, "Heavy Table," about her organic farming experiences. In her spare time Ruth will continue her volunteer work as a wetland and stream health evaluator for Ramsey County and the Rice Creek Watershed. Also on her summer agenda are some weekend hiking trips as well as a one week backpacking trip on Isle Royale.

Hannah Goodrich, a graduate of Benilde-St. Margaret's High School recently completed her junior year at the University of Wisconsin. She is not sure exactly how she will use her major in Biological Aspects of Conservation with a minor in Environmental Studies, but she is interested in careers in wildlife conservation or alternative energy sources. Graduate school seems likely, perhaps after some time working in Americorps or Peace Corps. Hannah is active in the Hooper Outing Club; REAP, an organization which works with local, small-scale organic farms; the Undergraduate Zoological Society and the Wildlife Society. This spring she worked with a group of students researching bear hair samples, which recently involved excavating two dens, sedating the bears and attaching tracking collars. Hannah is excited about her

summer internship at the International Wolf Center in Ely.

Shaina Sabel is an Anoka High School graduate who recently completed her sophomore year at South Dakota State University. She described one of her spring semester courses, Agroecology, as being the keystone of this school year: "I have learned that conventional agriculture is willing to be flexible and conserve our resources. Farmers care about the environment and want to ensure that it will still be farmable when it's there children's time."

After completing her undergraduate studies in Agronomy and Environmental Management, Shaina plans to do a tour with the Peace Corps before graduate school. Eventually, she hopes for a career as a natural resource and agronomic manager or consultant. She is continuing her work on campus with the Water Resource Institute on issues regarding water quality. The goal of a current research project of the institute, with which Shaina is involved, is to develop systems that will reduce nutrient run off from farm fields.

William Risse, a graduate of Park Center High School, recently completed his sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. His major is Land Use Planning with a minor in Soil Science, Geographical Information System and Spatial Analysis. After his undergraduate studies are complete, William plans to attend grad school to help him reach his eventual goal of working as a planner for cities and counties. He would like to help make people aware of the environmental issues involved with urban expansion (habitat fragmentation, fossil fuel use, improper waste disposal, etc). On campus William is involved with Students for Sustainable Communities and is active in student government. While at home this summer he will be volunteering in the WHEP program which evaluates the health of wetlands in the metro area.

Scholarships continued on the next page

Scholarships continued

Ellen Squires, a recent graduate of Andover High School, will begin her college career at St. Olaf College this fall. Although uncertain about her long range plans, she hopes to earn a joint degree in environmental science, political science and biology. After St. Olaf, graduate school and environmental law may be in her future. Among her many activities Ellen was president of Andover's Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students (ECOS), participated in Envirothon (a team based environmental competition), and completed an independent environmental science study. As the field component of this study Ellen helped to re-establish a prairie ecosystem on land adjacent to the high school

This summer Ellen has purchased a plot in a local community garden where she plans to partner with a local farmer to increase her knowledge of sustainable growing techniques.

If you would like more information about the Breckenridge Chapter scholarship program, if you would like to make a contribution to the program, or if you would be interested in serving on the committee, please contact one of the current committee members (Jim Arnold, Judy Arnold or Melissa Sonnenberg).

River Walk Stairs Repaired

Many thanks to Dell Erickson who spent considerable time last month repairing the railings and stairs on the "north loop" of the river walk. Erosion and falling trees had done significant damage to this area in the last few years. It is now much safer walking this route down the hill thanks to Dell's repair work.

Another long awaited project should get under way in June. The building committee recently met to work on the details for a shed that will be built west of the Chapter House. The shed will house garbage cans, firewood and perhaps a few outdoor tools. If you're interested in working on this project please contact Dick Brown, Steve Schaust or Jim Arnold.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact Barb Franklin.

One of our baby eagles.



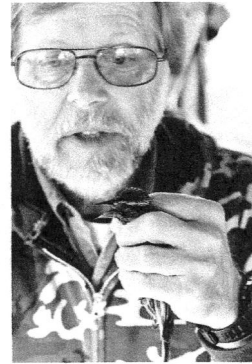
Springbrook Nature Center Bird Banding Dell Erickson

May 13-16, 2010 was this year's Urban *Birding Festival of the Twin Cities*. The Festival is sponsored by the St. Paul Audubon Society and several other organizations.

Throughout the Twin Cities were numerous events focused on birds and their importance to us, their habitats, and ecology. The Festival included birder and naturalist lead hikes in Rice Creek, Robert's Bird Sanctuary, Mississippi River Gorge, at al., even Osprey nests at Lake Josephine.

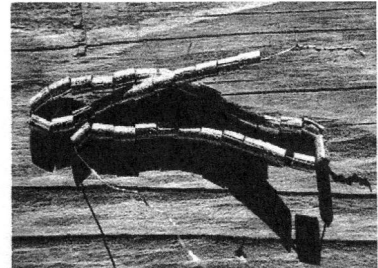
Just east of the Chapter Lodge across the river lies Springbrook Nature Center where many nature displays, bird, and nature hikes are offered.

Not having the opportunity previously, I eagerly attended the early morning bird banding. The photo to the right is of Ron Refsnider, leader of the bird banding study. Now retired, Ron for many years worked for the USFWS in the endangered species area.



The banding study was developed after the 1986 tornadoes wrecked havoc on the Nature Center. The long term study's purpose was

to record bird species changes as the habitat regenerated and also record changes in numbers migrating. Migrating birds is one reason the study is conducted at this time of the year.



The bands are of different sizes and do not harm the bird.

Each bird is banded, and the age, general health, including fat content, size, and sex is determined.

Our own Lyle Bradley gave the luncheon speech, *Attracting birds and wildlife to your backyard*.



The bird's body is held in the palm. The bird's head is held between the fingers. The purpose is to keep the bird under better control so they are not harmed and so the person is not "bit" by the beak. Although a few birds appeared stressed, all were released unharmed. The next banding session is June 6th at 6:30 AM.

Oil vs. Population & Sustainability

The Crash is About Us

Dell Erickson

“The population problem is the worst problem we’ve got. If we don’t solve that, we’ll solve nothing.” David Bower, First Executive Director, Sierra Club.

The “raging monster upon the land is population growth. In its presence, sustainability is but a fragile theoretical construct. To say, as many do, that the difficulties of nations are not due to people but to poor ideology and land-use management is sophistic.” E.O. Wilson.

Are environmental organizations engaging in population Sophistry?

Of course, we all know the answer is, “yes”, and its extension ‘sustainability’ has been translated into fuzzy cuddly feel-good conservation.

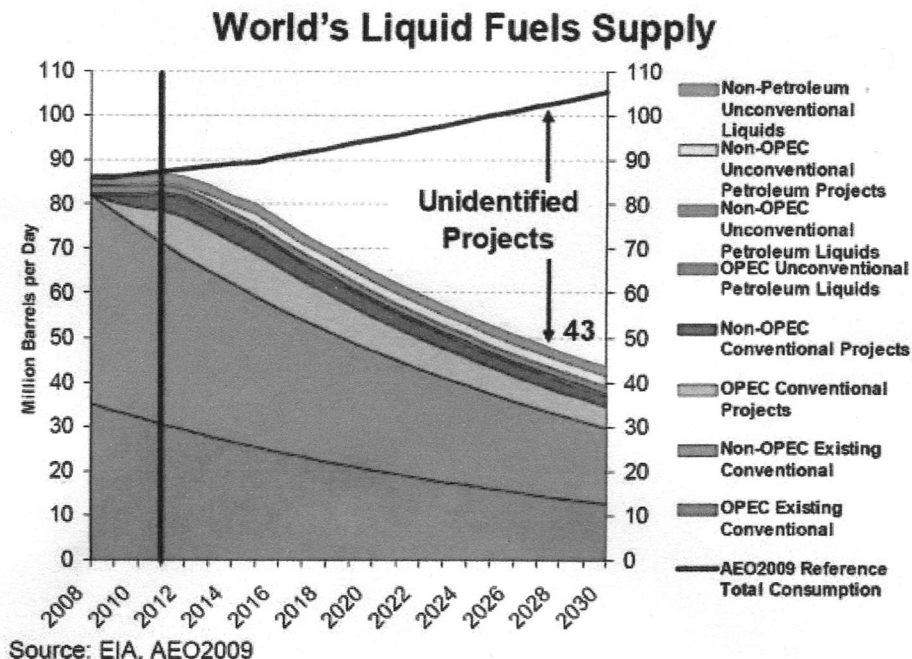
Let’s look at a single dimension of sustainability, of U.S. and world overpopulation, oil. PeakOil has arrived; conventional oil production, what we normally think of as ‘oil’, has peaked. The increases we see are from non-conventional sources, such as deep water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, with its unavoidable problems.

The EIA (and Dept. of Defense -Joint Forces Command) produced the following chart in April 2009.

Please look closely.

Today’s oil production is approximately 85 million barrels per day (top line left side). The top line is estimated demand by year and the “Unidentified Projects” is the required but not known new discoveries and production to match the demand. Demand is essentially another word for population growth.

However, world oil production is set to begin an irreversible decline beginning next year and there is nothing to replace it. The EIA data reveals a 63% decline in the world’s #1 energy source, oil, over only 20 years!



Original chart #8 at < <http://www.eia.doe.gov/conference/2009/session3/Sweetnam.pdf> >.

Note the trendline begins a slow decline of about 2% per year, but increase steadily with rates exceeding 4% annually. The gap at 2015 indicates a shortfall of more than five million barrels per day (not including replacement of depleting oil fields).

What about depletion? $4\% \times 80 = 3.2$ millions barrels decline per day is just around the corner. It's a double whammy, not only must increasing demands be met, but the annual declines must be compensated for at the same time. No amount of mpg standards or conservation will make a difference.

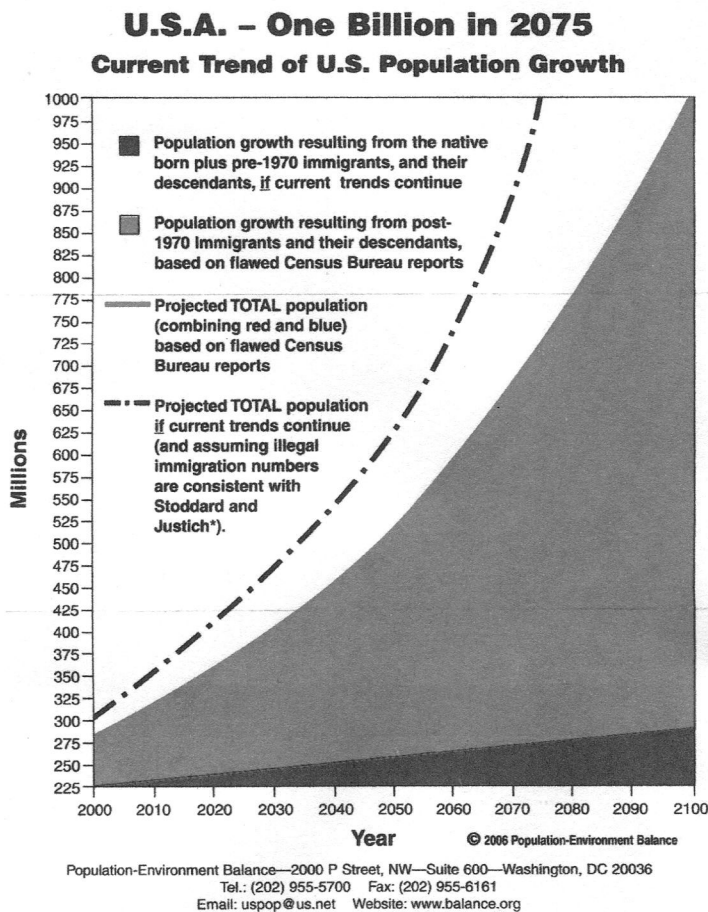
Stopping or at least slowing population growth is the best method to reduce demand increases and consumption.

The legend on the right side lists current production and all known projects to find and produce more oil. The gap at year 2030, '43' is millions of barrels per day! Unless population sanity prevails, the world's population will have added another 1.5 – 2+ billion people and the U.S. added another ~100 million from in-migration during that short period. There won't be many cars, your children won't have a job, the environment ravaged.

The EIA's 2007 Hirsch Report concluded we needed to begin to deal with diminishing oil resources twenty years ago. All presidents, including Obama, now one of the worse, if not the worse regarding our population-energy conundrum, have avoided the situation.

Thus, the world has no time to plan, prepare, install infrastructure, manufacture alternatives (if any exist!), and change society's behaviors—including impacts of agriculture and biodiversity.

The primary solution? In the U.S, we have an opportunity to rapidly stop population and energy growth.



Stop all in-migration; deport all illegal aliens, and remove so-called refugees. That practice will immediately stop the growth of energy consumption (and associated pollution), and significantly reduce current and long term energy consumption, greenhouse emissions, the balance of payments deficit, and the prices of all kinds of energy dependent items.

The dot-dash line to the right illustrates our current population growth. President Obama's open borders mass amnesty plans imply the line shifts still higher by doubling or tripling immigration (and making all illegal's, legal). By the way, we are the bottom trendline.

The U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have the option of instituting a sane and sustainable population policy (beginning with stopping all immigration) while at the same time undertaking a comprehensive program of reducing energy use at all institutional and societal levels.

E.O. Wilson has it right. Our unsustainability, our energy future should make us nervous. What is worse is that although it can be dealt with, are prohibited from any realistic

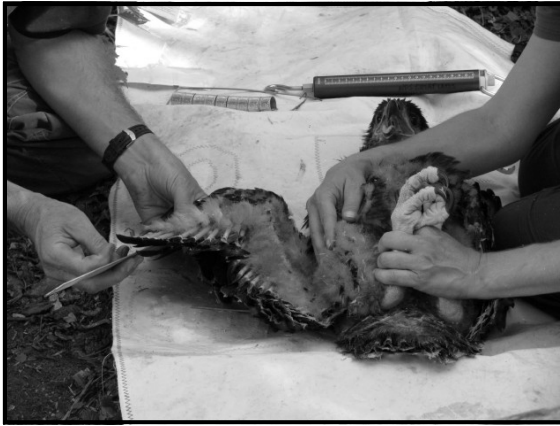
remedies because of the energy/population sophistry of the Izaak Walton League, including our Midwest Division, the Sierra Club, Audubon, National Wildlife, the Wetlands Summit, LOHR, LCCMR, Springbrook Nature Center, etc. Time to change.

Island Eagles Revisited

By Jim Arnold and John Fraley

Many of you will recall an article and subsequent Chapter House program that described a Mississippi River water quality research project being conducted by the National Park Service. This unique research project involves taking measurements, blood samples and a few feathers from young eagles. The samples will provide information on pollutants in the young birds system. The project is funded by the

Minnesota Control and in-sonnel from Service as Audubon. one of the volved in search pro-the ridge Chap-Island three member



Pollution Agency volves per-the Park well as Because nest in-this re-ject is on Brecken-ter chapter were al-



allowed to observe the process this year on May 19th.

We watched as an arborist/climber used a crossbow to shoot a fishing line over the branch of a large cottonwood tree that was supporting the eagle nest, attach a climbing rope to



the fishing and then pull the climbing rope over the branch. He then used the rope to climb the estimated 80 feet to the nest, collected the two six week old eaglets (there was only one last year), then returned to the ground. The biologist then banded the birds, took measurements of the beak and feet, and collected the important blood and feather



samples. The eaglets were out of the nest around 30 to 40 minutes before being returned. The adult eagles soared continuously above the nest

during this time and made no attempt to attack the climber or the researchers on the ground,

Collecting this information is limited to just a few weeks each spring when the eaglets are not yet strong or agile enough to climb to the edge of the nest and attempt escape. Using young birds is important because they have been eating only food their parents bring to them from a limited distance from the nest. Using information taken from 30 or more nests along the Mississippi researchers can then reach

conclusions about what pollutants are found in

different parts of the river. So far the

research study has shown that the most common pollutants in the river come from chemicals found in fire retardants.

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Brooklyn Park MN 55444



If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to

Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: **EditorBreckIWL@msn.com**

Deadline is the last day of each month.

**“All articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position
of the Breckenridge Board of directors.”**

